Nixon - plans, future, psychological; what may be in the works HW 9/6/74

Interesting as are the contents of Lou Cannon's story, "Nixon in Exile: Lonely, Depressed" in today's Post, more interesting still is it that some of this information was made available to the paper Nixon considers his premier enemy and by his friends and associates.

And interesting and reasonable as are Cannon's conjectures about the future, what he omits from his conjectures likewise can be interesting.

That Nixon has had psychological problems all his life is hardly new. My records in clippings go far back. When I started to break the Watergate clippings down by subject I established a separate "Psychological" file. In the original book there was to have been a separate section on him as psycho. The file contains many tidbits not in any way connected with The Watergate. Many date from the time of no Watergate reporting.

This story appears at a time Nixon's indictment is a real possibility. It says that he is emotionally disturbed, largely out of contact with reality, if not an authentic psychological case on the verge of real and serious psychological trouble.

It also says there "is Mr. Nixon's inability to say the name of Leon Jaworski, the Watergate special prosecutor," attributed to his supporter, Congressman Dan Kuykendall (R,Tenn.)

There can be a kind of psychological campaigain all of this, to make it appear to Jaworski and his staff that if Nixon is indicted they will be responsible for driving a former if disgraced President actually insane.

What better way to influence, to attempt to prevent indictment? The grand jury wanted to indict on much less evidence than is now public so its willingness to indict can not be questioned. That it hasn't already can be attributed to prosecutorial influence only.

It islikewise the same kind of pressure on Ford, Saxbe and the Congress is not also the media.

What Cannon reports is what Nixon and his friends would not ordinarily want said about him. It is not what the paranoid in Nixon would want said to make himself out to be a persecuted man. But were these not truth, if friends wanted a sympathetic story of this nature, ordinarily they would not have picked out his worst enemy to plant it with. They could have used the wire services, for example. Even if Cannon had the idea and was to their knowledge working on such a story. They could have placed it elsewhere. Ordinarily they would have.

It therefore seems not unreasonable to believe that regardless of the origin of this story, it can have Nixonian purposes. This is only one.

Cannon deals at length with Nixon's planned writing, his financial situation and his library. He does not mention what should be considered with all these matters, the exceptional increase in the generous funding by the government of all ex-presidents. Why does a Nixon whose top adviser is the nothing Ziegler need extra staff, for example, extra funds for setting up offices when he already has them? There is no single person with Nixon who could be seriously considered a real adviser to a man with Nixon's many problems. He has Ziegler, Bull and a military adviser. These are lightweights at best.

Now if other appeals are intended by this story and its contents, welathy Nixon supporters may well be its targets. This is a cry for help of the kind they can provide.

One means is by buying at a fancy price part of the San Clemente estate for his library, perhaps including the Abplanalp part. It means nothing that Nixon has said he would deed this to the people. Much happened since then and he was never conspicuous for truthfulness. And then he got the light tax treatment but nonetheless a hefty cost.

This is not essential to other suppositions but can be helpful to them. It provides for a typical Nixonian dodge, having the eaten cake. He can stay at San Clemente through the writing of his memoirs (by others) and for the beginning of the setting up of the library there and then sell his remaining interest, probably for an even larger sum, to the library and move elsewhere, to Bebe or to New York.

San Clemente is the ideal place for the writing of these memoirs. Its seclusion permits the easier hiding of the fact that Nixon will not be writing them himself. His ghosts. It permits them to be quartered secretly. More, the can be called part of his staff or research assistants, almost anything to comfort his ego needs.

There is no need for office expenses, furniture, etc. in he stays at San Clemente for the period covered by the requested appropriation because there is already an office complex built for him. There likewise would be no such need were he to move to NYC for ample federal office space is available there. In Key Biscayne there is no close office space but he could rent his spare house to the government as Bebe rented his. He or Bebe could this make money from Nixon's subsidized officing.

But there could be no grafting on payroll. Real people would have to receive and sign real checks. If he can get along in this crucial period with a nothing like Ziegler as his top staffer, what kind of future staff can he believe he really needs? The most likely explanation or answer is a writing and research staff, of federal subsidy of his $2,000,000 book that, with the precedent of the crooked Eisenhower tax ruling, would receive favorable tax treatment and be more his than any other author's. This like the book itself would be even more graft but legally.

People are not dealing with realities when they report on Nixon these days. The most recent example in the story on how legal and proper his changing the conditions of his gift of his papers is. To begin with it says that the alleged gift was legal and proper when it was not. and it is not in any sense a new condition. It is merely a precise formulation of a proviso of the original and unaccepted contract that was not reported as either a contract or one not consummated. That original paper gave him the right to restrict or withdraw anything and everything, but the government is not saying this. Instead they say the seemingly new restriction is normal.

Unless it is a fairly full confession any Nixon book now can't have a market that could justify a $2,000,000 advance against royalties. Its sale would have to be without precedent. Its content would therefore have to be significant. Picture of Nixon confessing or telling any substantial part of the truth! Or the sales potential of more of his boasting about his great successes! Or his apologies. His hardcore can't be expected to buy in the quantity required for an advance of this size. Advances are only a fraction of the royalties a publisher expects the book to earn. With a maximum royalty of 15% on hardback, less on paper reprint, regardless of the sales price the number of books that would have to be sold merely for the recovery of the advance is neither possible nor precedented. In fact, the cases in point all say it can't happen. Neither Ike's nor Johnson's nor Six Crises sold anything close to this. Even Manchester's had to be virtually remaindered beginning at the very beginning by selling them so cheaply to mass marketers like drug chains that they, in turn, could retail them at less than the wholesale price to book stores.

This is evidence that hidden financial support for Nixon is readily available.

It is reason to believe that a rescue Nixon operation is and has for weeks been active.

The Cannon story can be interpreted (particularly with others also recalled) as indication that it covers all areas of importance to Nixon.